

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: WHEELS OF POLITICS GRIND SLOWLY

1. SUMMARY. WHILE GREEK ELECTORATE IMPATIENTLY AWAITS PUBLICATION OF PARTY SLATES FOR DEPUTIES, PARTY HEADQUARTERS CONTINUE NONCOMMITTAL ON BARRAGE OF SPECULATION THAT CARAMANLIS, MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU WILL LAUNCH CAMPAIGNS NEXT WEEKEND WITH MAJOR SPEECHES. KANELLOPOULOS OPTED NOT SURPRISINGLY FOR NON-PARTICIPATION IN NOV. 17 ELECTIONS (SEPTEL) AND A ROYALIST FORMATION "ROYAL NATIONAL ALIGNMENT" IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE DEBUT OCT. 16. NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION'S LEADER GAROUFALIAS ISSUED LENGTHY INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ONLY IN ELEFTHEROS COSMOS (SEPTEL), AND REPORTS OF SURE CANDIDATES CIRCULATE WIDELY. END SUMMARY.

2. INTEREST CONTINUES TO MOUNT AS LONG-AWAITED PARTY LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY REMAIN UNKNOWN. LATEST REPORTS SUGGEST ALL PARTIES HAVE LISTS IN NEAR FINAL FORM AND WILL PUBLISH SLATES SOON. PASOK'S SLATES ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS MAY APPEAR LATER TODAY WHILE OTHER PARTIES INCLUDING NEW DEMOCRACY MAY NOT ANNOUNCE CANDIDATES BEFORE WEEKEND. PRESS SPECULATES BY THEN CARAMANLIS WILL LAUNCH ND CAMPAIGN FROM THESSALONIKI OR LARISSA,  
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ANDREAS PAPANDREOU FROM HIS HOMEGROUND PATRAS, AND MAVROS

FROM HERAKLION OR THESSALONIKI. MEANWHILE NIKITAS VENIZELOS I TOURING HIS HOME TERRITORY CRETE REPORTEDLY WITH VIEW TO TESTING WATER ON REVIVING LIBERAL PARTY. PRESS SPECULATES REVIVED LIBERAL PARTY WOULD REMAIN IN CENTER UNION OR THAT VENIZELOS FORESEES DECLINE IN CU POPULARITY AND MAY APPROACH NEW DEMOCRACY.

3. OTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE SCHEDULED FOUNDING OCTOBER 16 OF ROYAL NATIONAL ALIGNMENT. IT ANNOUNCED IT WILL ISSUE STATEMENT OF ITS POLITICAL PRINCIPLES ON BEHALF OF 188 PROVINCIAL BRAHCNES. CHRISTOS APOSTOLAKOS WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN ALL MAJOR GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES EXCEPT EXTREME LEFT AND HAS SERVED AS MINISTER IN SEVERAL CABINETS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION. FORMER ATHENS MAYOR GEORGE PLYTAS TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULD ABSTAIN FROM NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, PREFERRING TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF ATHENS IN SUBSEQUENT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. ON LEFT FRONT THEODORAKIS, CANDIDATE FOR UNITED LEFT, DECLARED THAT UNITED LEFT WILL KEEP ITS GUARD UP AGAINST "BLACK FORCES WHICH CONSPIRE WITH THE ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN ELEMENTS" AND MANOLIS GLEZOS, HARDCORE COMMUNIST LEADER, IN SURPRISING ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT ONLY SOLUTION IS ESTABLISHMENT OF FRONT LED BY CAAMANLIS INCORPORATING ALL RESISTANCE FORCES.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL ACTION PM CARAMANLIS ISSUED ADMONITION TO PUBLIC SERVANTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL AND SECURITY OFFICERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES TO ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR PROPER CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AND NOT TOINVOLVE THEMSELVES IN ELECTORAL ANTAGONISM. CARAMANLIS ADDED "I DEEM IT MY DUTY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND TO STRESS THAT ANY INFRINGEMENT WILL CARRY HEAVY SANCTIONS UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION." CARAMANLIS ADDED THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS CAN EXERCISE RIGHT TO VOTE WITHOUT HINDERANCE AND ARE ENTITLED TO HOLD THEIR OWN VIEWS. (TRADITION AND STRICT ELECTORAL LEGISLATION FORBID CIVIL SERVANTS, MILITARY, ETC. FROM ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS).

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